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Letter dated 4 April 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letters of the Croatian Foreign Minister, M. Granić of 27 March 1995 (A/50/119-S/1995/223), and the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations of 28 March 1995 (A/50/124-S/1995/229), addressed to you, and upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

The above letters contain tendentious and untrue charges concerning the alleged involvement of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in incidents in the territory of eastern Slavonia contrary to the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations that confirmed a long time ago that the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) has left the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) of the Republic of Serbian Krajina. My Government wishes to lodge a strong protest in the wake of such ill-intentioned and fabricated charges against the Army of Yugoslavia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In this connection, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia energetically deny these and similar charges and reiterate that no units or equipment of the Army of Yugoslavia are deployed outside the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia steadfastly adheres to its principled and peaceful policy and in that framework invests unceasing efforts towards the peaceful resolution of the crisis in the territories of the former Socialist

* A/50/50.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, making its constructive and significant contribution in order to overcome the problem. That has been acknowledged by the international community on many occasions.

It should be recalled that on 30 March 1995, in the headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Zagreb, Mr. Michael Williams, spokesman of the United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia as well as his counterpart in the United Nations in New York, Mr. Fred Eckhard, denied the accusations of the Croatian Government on the alleged crossing and presence of the units of the Army of Yugoslavia in Sector East of the United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Serbian Krajina. The Commander of the Belgian battalion that monitors the Batina bridge on the Danube explicitly denied the Croatian charges that the Belgian battalion left the checkpoint and was disarmed, which would have allowed the soldiers of the Army of Yugoslavia to cross over.

It is highly hypocritical and ironic that the Croatian representatives apportion the blame for the above situation to UNPROFOR's presence and incompetence. The overriding goal is to totally discredit the peace operation in the territories of the former Yugoslavia at this precarious moment when the Security Council is deciding the fate of the peace-keeping operation and when the presence of a peace-keeping operation in the territories of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is proving to have an irreplaceable and indispensable role.

In so doing, Croatia actually seeks to change the character of the peace-keeping operation and impose its own solution, contrary to the Vance plan and the past achievements, before the end of the phased negotiating process already agreed upon by the Republic of Serbian Krajina and the Republic of Croatia. At the same time, Croatia is aspiring to shift the attention of the international community from the well-known and attested activities of the Croatian regular army in Bosnia and Herzegovina, its permanent armed attacks on the UNPAs in the Republic of Serbian Krajina and repeated incursions of the Croatian army in the demilitarized zone on the Prevlaka peninsula (constant violations of, and the presence of the Croatian army in the so-called blue zone and the construction of military objects which was confirmed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, on 30 March 1995). Croatia also wishes to divert attention from its persistent arms embargo violations, which are publicly acknowledged in its media.

It is evident that the Croatian representatives regularly make pretentious and false statements on the eve of major decisions of the Security Council to score political points defying the actual state of affairs, the logic of the peace process and the peace operation. They do not hesitate to condemn the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by their absurd statements in an attempt to conceal their repeated violations of the Security Council decisions and the peace plan.

Such conduct of the Croatian officials has become the standard practice and directly threatens the peace process, unjustifiably negates the principled and peaceful policy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and deliberately fans the

flames of war in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and beyond.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.